

SMEETS et al
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AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please insert the Abstract of the Disclosure which is on the attached sheet.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a continuous process for preparing caprolactam by Beckmann rearrangement of cyclohexanone oxime, said process comprising

a) feeding (i) oleum and (ii) cyclohexanone oxime into a first reaction mixture comprising caprolactam, sulfuric acid and SO_3 ,

b) feeding (iii) a portion of the first reaction mixture and (iv) cyclohexanone oxime into a second reaction mixture comprising caprolactam, sulfuric acid and SO_3 ,

c) withdrawing a portion of the second reaction mixture, wherein the process further comprises obtaining the cyclohexanone oxime that is fed to the reaction mixtures by:

1) preparing an organic medium comprising cyclohexanone oxime dissolved in an organic solvent

2) separating, by distillation, cyclohexanone oxime from said organic medium.